

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072997

FOR POLAD ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ, PP

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT: AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND,
PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

1. "GANG OF FOUR" DRAFTING PRINCIPLES. THE INFORMAL "GANG OF FOUR", THE DRAFTING GROUP OF THE INTERAGENCY GROUP ON MICRONESIA HAS BEEN WORKING ON A SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR A FREE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MICRONESIANS. THE PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE BASED ON A PROPOSAL PUT FORTH BY THE MICRONESIANS ARE BEING CLEARED IN THE VARIOUS
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DEPARTMENTS AND WILL BE USED IN THE NEXT NEGOTIATING
ROUND EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
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2. LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS IN PORT MORESBY. BOTH THE
GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION IN PORT MORESBY ARE HAVING
LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS. PRIME MINISTER SOMARE'S STEM FROM

HIS PROTRACTED ABSENCES FROM THE CAPITOL DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND HIS PROPOSAL FOR A TOUGH NEW LEADERSHIP CODE. IN LARGE MEASURE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JULIUS CHAN IS FILLING THE VACUUM CREATED BY SOMARE'S ABSENCE. THE PROPOSED LEADERSHIP CODE, WHICH WOULD GREATLY LIMIT PRIVATE BUSINESS DEALINGS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,

IS UNDER CRITICISM BECAUSE IT COULD RESULT IN THE REMOVAL OF SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S ABLEST PEOPLE FROM GOVERNMENT. OPPOSITION LEADER SIR TEI ABAL IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO RESIGN. HIS SUCCESSOR WOULD LIKELY BE DEPUTY LEADER MARTIN TOVADEK OR, POSSIBLY, FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR JOH GUISE. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. PERSONNEL. MARTHA CARBONE, NEWLY ASSIGNED CONSUL IN PERTH, IS IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSULTATIONS THIS WEEK. SHE PLANS TO TAKE HOME LEAVE IN WASHINGTON STATE DURING APRIL AND TO ARRIVE IN PERTH IN EARLY MAY. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. DILLINGHAM. ED CARTER AND MIKE BRADFIELD CALLED ON BOB OAKLEY TODAY TO DISCUSS THE COMPANY'S CLAIM. WE ARE STUDYING A BRADFIELD PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF TRYING TO CONVINCE THE GOA TO AGREE TO DEFEND A CASE IN THE AUSTRALIAN COURTS TO DECIDE THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION. BOB TOLD CARTER THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE
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WOULD BE BRIEFED ON THE CLAIM. IT WAS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT TO RAISE THE CLAIM OF ONE COMPANY WITH FRASER DURING HIS TRIP. CARTER WAS EFFUSIVE IN HIS PRAISE FOR THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY CANBERRA. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITORS. ON MARCH 21, ED HURWITZ AND BILL GALLAGHER TALKED TO MAURICE BOLAND OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN AUCKLAND. BOLAND WAS ACCOMPANIED BY OAKLEY JOHNSON OF THE US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. BOLAND STATED THAT THE AMCHAM WOULD LIKE THE VICE PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS THEM DURING HIS STAY IN NEW ZEALAND. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT SCHEDULING OF THE VISIT PROBABLY PRECLUDED A SIDETRIP TO AUCKLAND. (UNCLASSIFIED)
VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHD ABOVE ADDEES.

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